

Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey today announced that the Jeffersonville Fire Department has been awarded a \$50,085 federal grant to purchase new firefighting and communications equipment. The funds come from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG), which is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the United States Fire Administration (USFA).

The majority of the federal funds awarded to the Jeffersonville Fire Department will go toward the purchase of new hoses for the Department's firefighting vehicles. In addition, the grant funding will also pay for new pagers for the volunteers and allow the Department to purchase and install an emergency generator at the Department's firehouse.

"This grant funding will assist the dedicated volunteers in the Jeffersonville Fire Department in their efforts to protect and serve our local community," Hinchey said. "By funding critical items such as new hoses, communications equipment, and a backup generator for the firehouse, these grants will help the Department continue to respond to the emergency needs of our community without further straining their local budget."

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, Hinchey has worked to secure full funding for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, since its inception in 2001. Since the fire grant program started, more than \$14 million in grants have been awarded to fire and emergency departments in Hinchey's congressional district

The congressman has sponsored a number of workshops across his Congressional district to help fire departments successfully navigate the grant application process. Hinchey is also the author of the SERVE (Supporting Emergency Responders' Volunteer Efforts) Act, which would provide a \$1,000 federal tax credit to individuals who are active members of volunteer firefighting and EMS organizations.